

# SIX-MONTH OBSERVANCE CALENDAR WITH A DIVERSITY FOCUS

July – December 2024



DATE	OBSERVANCE	DESCRIPTION
Thursday, July 4	<b>Independence Day</b>	Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.
Friday, July 26	<b>Americans With Disabilities Act Day</b>	Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.
Wednesday, August 21	<b>Senior Citizen Day</b>	Recognizes the many contributions older adults make in communities across the United States.
Monday, August 26	<b>Women's Equality Day</b>	Commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.
Monday, September 2	<b>Labor Day</b>	Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.
Sunday, September 8	<b>International Literacy Day</b>	Call to action for universal literacy.
Wednesday, September 11	<b>Patriot Day</b>	Observed in the United States as a day to honor the victims and those affected by the events of 9/11/2001
Sunday, September 15 – Tuesday, October 15	<b>Month - Hispanic Heritage</b>	Celebrates the contributions, heritage, and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
Sunday, September 22	<b>Autumnal Equinox</b>	Marks the first day of the season of fall.
Tuesday, October 1 – Thursday, October 31	<b>Month - Disability Employment Awareness</b>	Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
Wednesday, October 2 – Friday, October 4 <sup>#</sup> <i>(festival dates change annually)</i>	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> <i>(Jewish)</i>	The beginning of the Jewish New Year and the first of the High Holy Days marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal. <i>Observance starts at nightfall on the first day and ends at nightfall on the last day.</i>
Thursday, October 10	<b>World Mental Health Day</b>	Raises awareness of mental health issues and encourages efforts to support those impacted by mental health issues.
Friday, October 11	<b>Coming Out Day</b>	Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.
Friday, October 11 – Saturday, October 12 <sup>#</sup> <i>(festival dates change annually)</i>	<b>Yom Kippur</b> <i>(Jewish)</i>	The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence, which begins with Rosh Hashanah. <i>Observance starts at nightfall on the first day and ends at nightfall on the last day.</i>

*This list is meant solely as a resource not meant to be comprehensive nor a specific guide to the holidays and observances recognized by Vibrant Pittsburgh members and affiliates.*

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Monday, October 14	<b>Indigenous People’s Day</b>	Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.
Thursday, October 17	<b>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</b>	Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
Friday, November 1 <i>(primary observance date in the five-day festival)</i>	<b>Diwali</b> <i>(Hindu)</i>	Also called <i>Deepavali</i> , the “Festival of Lights” celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
Friday, November 1 – Saturday, November 30	<b>Month - American Indian Heritage</b>	Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the United States.
Tuesday, November 5	<b>Election Day</b>	A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.
Monday, November 11	<b>Veterans’ Day</b>	Honors military veterans and the U.S. Armed Services.
Thursday, November 28	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	Following a 19th-century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims’ harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.
Sunday, December 1	<b>World Aids Day</b>	International Day of Action on HIV and AIDS.
Tuesday, December 3	<b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b>	Raises awareness about persons with disabilities to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
Sunday, December 8	<b>Bodhi Day</b> <i>(Buddhist)</i>	Also known as <i>Rohatsu</i> , commemorates the day that the Buddha, Siddharta Gautama, experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi).
Saturday, December 21	<b>Winter Solstice</b>	Marks the first day of the season of winter.
Wednesday, December 25	<b>Christmas</b> <i>(Christian – Western)</i>	Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
Wednesday, December 25 – Thursday, January 2 <sup>#</sup> <i>(festival dates change annually)</i>	<b>Hanukkah</b> <i>(Jewish)</i>	The Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, also known as <i>Chanukah</i> , celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. <i>Observance starts at nightfall on the first day and ends at nightfall on the last day.</i>
Thursday, December 26 – Wednesday, January 1 <i>(festival dates change annually)</i>	<b>Kwanzaa</b> <i>(African American)</i>	A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.
Tuesday, December 31	<b>New Year’s Eve</b>	In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, the last day of the year, is on December 31.

# Observances in the Jewish tradition start at nightfall on the first day and end at nightfall on the last day.

Those wishing to explore additional holidays and observances can find a sampling of resources on our website. Visit: [vibrantpittsburgh.org/dei-calendars](http://vibrantpittsburgh.org/dei-calendars).

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